(d) The production of sugar during the last sugar season 2008-09 is provisionally estimated at about 147 lac tons and the remaining stock from 2007-08 sugar season at about 100 lac tons. As per trade sources, the quantity of imported raw and white sugar in 2008-09 sugar season is 22.93 lac tons and 2.25 lac tons respectively.

Fresh identification of BPL beneficiaries

192. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked States to put a cap on the number of BPL beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also asked States to identify afresh the BPL population;

(d) whether the foodgrains presently allocated to States are based on 1993-94 poverty estimates; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of fair price shops, rest with the concerned State and UT Governments.

Foodgrains are allocated to State & UTs under TPDS for 6.52 crore BPL families. This number of BPL families is based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000, and includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, as reported by end of October 2009, State and UT Governments have issued 10.96 crore BPL ration cards including 2.43 crore AAY cards. State/UT-wise details of these families are given in the enclosed Statement [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 173 Part (a) to (e)]

The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households, and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors. Some of the State Governments have requested for accepting the higher numbers of BPL families for allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. The State and UT Governments have again been directed to take up a campaign during October to December 2009 to detect and eliminate bogus/ineligible BPL ration cards.

As provided under Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001, the State and UT Governments have to identify BPL families as per the estimates provided by the Planning Commission. For taking up next round of BPL census in rural and urban areas, Ministries of Rural Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation have to issue guidelines.

Loss of wheat due to shortage of storage facility

193. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of wheat, kept in the open due to inadequate storage facilities, has been damaged;

(b) if so, the details of the foodgrains got damaged and declared unfit even for animal consumption in different regions; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. No foodgrains have been damaged due to lack of proper storage facilities. However, small quantities of foodgrains may get damaged due to various reasons, such as insect/fungus infestation, rodents, cyclones, floods and other natural calamities.

(b) The details of the foodgrains damaged and declared unfit in different regions during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve storage infrastructure in the country:-

1. FCI has prepared a shelf of projects to establish new godowns during the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012). The estimated cost of construction of these godowns is Rs. 164 crores. Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 125 crores for FCI and Rs. 24 crores for State Governments of North Eastern region, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir.

2. In July, 2008, the Government formulated a "Scheme for Construction of Godowns for FCI-Storage requirements through Private Enterpreneurs". Under this scheme, the FCI is to provide a guarantee for 5 years for hiring of godowns through Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations. FCI has approved creation of 126.35 lakh tonnes of storage capacity under this scheme.

3. Under the Scheme for Construction of Godowns for FCI and within the overall capacity of 126.35 lakh tonnes approved by FCI, the Government has allowed CWC/SWCs to build godowns on their own land for which FCI would provide 4 years guarantee for the storage charges.